

15 March 1954

Mr. Kingman Douglass

Dear King,

[redacted] paid us a return visit last week, and was good enough to say that he thought very highly of some of the equipment which we have gotten into operation under [redacted] direction. One of his comments will be of interest to you:

He said he couldn't understand why one part of CIA should have equipment like this already in operation, while another part of the shop was spending considerable sums to develop equipment for exactly the same purpose. He asked why we couldn't get coordinated, and avoid the wasted time and money. On inquiry, it developed that he had recently been consulted by two officers from [redacted] office in CIA. We didn't inform him that [redacted] is not an officer of CIA.

I've been trying to get a raise for [redacted] from GS-14 to GS-15, on the ground that he has more than earned it both by his seniority and by the savings which he has enabled us to make by the equipment he has developed. But the red-tape specialists maintain that no man without a college education, and especially no man who works with machinery, should have this rank. I mentioned Henry Ford and Thomas Edison without effect.

Could you give me an indication as to what salary a first rate man doing comparable work might command in private industry? [redacted] himself, I expect, might be an example. Since [redacted] recently asked us to let [redacted] serve them as an occasional consultant, I think it's fair to say that he really has attained a good deal of stature in his specialty.

I'll be most grateful if you can provide me with a little ammunition on the subject.

Sincerely,

James M. Andrews